Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa

The **Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa** (*Museo di storia naturale dell'Università di Pisa*) is an Italian natural history museum at Pisa. It is part of the University of Pisa and is now located in Pisa Charterhouse 10 km from the city of Pisa in the comune (municipality) of Calci.

In 1596, Grand Duke Ferdinand I of Tuscany established the Museum of Natural History of the University of Pisa, transferring specimens from the Florentine palaces of the Medici, particularly from the Uffizi. This was expanded to serve the natural history faculties of the University of Pisa. Initially, the gallery was in the botanic gardens (Orto botanico di Pisa).

The oldest collections in the museum are Niccolò Gualtieri's shells. (In 1814, the Botanic Garden (directed by G. Savi) was separated from the Natural History Museum (directed by G.Santi) and in 1827, Paolo Savi, assembled more than five thousand zoological specimens which are mostly extant.

Paolo Savi.

Dinosaur court.

Whale hall.

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Palaeoanthropology (history).

Vertebrate collections

The museum contains the osteology collections of Sebastiano Richiardi. The bird collection consists of 9,000 mounts and c. 1,000 skins, 275 (partial) skeletons, 1,100 eggs, 800 nests, and 450 anatomical specimens. The bird collection is specialised in Italy, especially the Pisa area and Toscana region generally (e.g. the Savi coll also the Americas, Central & South Africa, Middle East, SE Asia, Australia, with birds of virtually all families and includes extinct birds like *Fregilupus varius* and *Pinguinus impennis*.

Giraffe skeleton.

Mollusc collections

The museum contains shells collected by:

- Niccolò Gualtieri about 700 samples. The importance of this collection is demonstrated by the fact that it was studied by Carl Linnaeus, who in the tenth edition of *Systema Naturae* used many of these shells as types.
- Georg Eberhard Rumphius acquired in 1747 by Francesco di Lorena for the Pisan Gallery.

Insect collections

The museum contains insects collected by:

- Édouard Ménétries
- Carlo Giuseppe Gené
- Imre Frivaldszky
- Pierre François Marie Auguste Dejean
- Maximilian Spinola
- Carlo Passerini.

Fossils

The collection includes exceptional fossils from Italy for instance specimens from Monte Bolca.

References

- Tosi A., 2002. *Art and science between neoclassicism and romanticism: the Botanical Garden in the modern age*. In: Garbari F., Tongiorgi Tomasi L., Tosi A., *Giardino dei Semplici — Garden of Simples*: 189–209. Ed. Plus, Pisa.
- Tosi A., 2002. *Il Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe*. In: AA.VV., Arte e *Scienza nei musei dell'Università di Pisa*: 313–327. Ed. Plus, Pisa.

External links

- Official website (http://www.msn.unipi.it/en/)
- G. Bedini; F. Garbari; A. Tosi (2003). "Museums and Collections of Pisa University an Archive of Arts and Sciences" (http://www.stsn.it/serB110/16Bedini-Garbari.pdf) (PDF). *Atti Soc. tosc. Sci. nat., Mem*. B. **110**: 195–199.
    - Braschi S., Cagnolaro L., Nicolosi P. (2007). Catalogo dei Cetacei del Museo di Storia Naturale e del Territorio dell'Università di Pisa, alla Certosa di Calci. Note osteometriche e ricerca storica (http://www.stsn.it/images/pdf/serB114/01_braschi.pdf). *Atti Soc. tosc. Sci. nat., Mem.*, Serie B, 114, pagg. 1-22, figg.10.

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